

News

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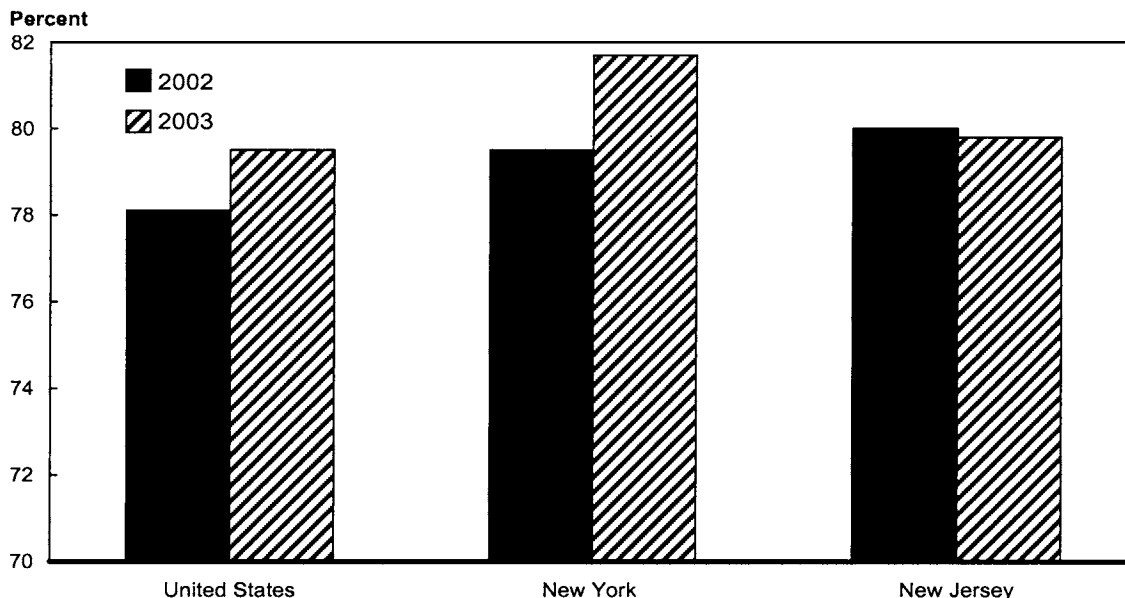
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WOMEN'S EARNINGS IN NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY, 2003

Nationwide, women's earnings stood at about 80 percent of men's earnings in 2003, up from 78 percent in 2002, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman reported that in the states of New York and New Jersey, women's earnings were 81.7 and 79.8 percent, respectively, of men's earnings in 2003. The ratio for New York was up from 79.5 percent in 2002, while that for New Jersey was essentially unchanged from 80.0 percent in the previous year. (See chart 1.) At the national level, the ratio between the median earnings of women and men who were full-time wage and salary workers has steadily narrowed from 63 percent in 1979, the first year comparable earnings data were available.

Chart 1. Women's earnings as a percent of men's,
United States, New York, and New Jersey, 2002 and 2003



Round-the-clock recorded messages for the **Consumer Price Index** and a variety of other **Bureau of Labor Statistics** data are available by dialing the **New York Information Office's** main telephone number: (212) 337-2400. For recorded messages, press '2.' Press '1' for 24-hour Fax-on-Demand service.

The earnings ratio between women and men varied greatly across the nation, from 65.3 percent in Wyoming to 95.1 percent in the District of Columbia. (See table 1.) Within the Northeast region, earnings ratios were close to the national average of 79.5 percent in Rhode Island (80.0 percent) and Massachusetts (78.0 percent).¹ In others, the earnings gap between women and men was more pronounced, varying by more than 4 percentage points in Connecticut (74.1 percent) and Pennsylvania (75.3 percent). (Comparisons by sex are on a broad level and do not control for many factors, such as educational attainment or age, that can be significant in explaining earnings differences. Variations in the occupation and industry composition of state labor forces also affect these comparisons.)

Nationally, the median weekly earnings of female full-time wage and salary workers were \$552 in 2003. The District of Columbia, averaging \$708, had the highest median weekly wage for women, followed by Connecticut and Maryland, both at \$666, and Massachusetts at \$665. Women in New York and New Jersey had higher earnings than the national average in 2003. In New Jersey, female full-time wage and salary workers earned \$655 and ranked 5th highest among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. In New York, the median weekly earnings of women averaged \$590, 10th highest in the nation. Within the Northeast region, only two of the nine states, Pennsylvania (\$539) and Maine (\$505), had lower than average earnings.

The median weekly earnings for men nationwide were \$695 in 2003. Men in both New York and New Jersey recorded higher-than-average earnings in 2003. In New Jersey, men had a median weekly wage of \$821, fourth highest nationwide behind Connecticut (\$900), Massachusetts (\$853), and Minnesota (\$834). In New York, men's earnings averaged \$723, same as in Rhode Island, and ranked 14th.

For more information on the median weekly earnings of women and men, see Bureau of Labor Statistics Report 978, "Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2003", issued September 2004; copies are available on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2003.pdf> or by calling the New York Information Office at (212) 337-2400.

Explanatory Note

This release presents estimates from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides a wide range of information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment. The CPS is a sample survey conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau from a scientifically selected national sample of about 60,000 households, with coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The earnings data are collected from one-quarter of the CPS monthly sample and are limited to wages and salaries. The data, therefore, exclude self-employment income.

Statistics based on the CPS data are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. The differences among data for the States reflect, in part, variations in the occupation, industry, and age composition of each State's labor force. In addition, sampling error for the State estimates is considerably larger than it is for the national data. The 2003 annual averages in this press release incorporate new population controls that reflect the results of Census 2000.

¹ Regions are defined as the four Census regions: Northeast, Midwest, South, and West. The Northeast region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Definitions

The principal definitions used in connection with the earnings series in this release are described below.

Usual weekly earnings. Data represent earnings before taxes and other deductions and include any overtime pay, commissions, or tips usually received (at the main job in the case of multiple jobholders.)

Median weekly earnings. The median is the amount which divides a given earnings distribution into two equal groups, one having earnings above the median and the other having earnings below the median.

Wage and salary workers. Workers who receive wages, salaries, commissions, tips, payment in kind, or piece rates. The group includes employees in both the private and public sectors but, for the purposes of the earnings series, excludes all self-employed persons, regardless of whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

Full-time worker. Workers who usually work 35 hours or more per week at their sole or principal job.

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Table 1. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by sex and State, 2003 annual averages

State	Both sexes			Women			Men			Women's earnings as percent of men's ¹
	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	
UNITED STATES	100,302	\$620	\$1	44,076	\$552	\$2	56,227	\$695	\$2	79.5
Alabama	1,547	588	10	677	482	19	869	663	18	72.7
Alaska	219	725	12	99	629	20	120	802	22	78.4
Arizona	1,771	623	11	720	558	15	1,051	682	18	81.9
Arkansas	870	515	10	387	445	13	483	587	10	75.8
California	11,816	664	7	4,939	615	5	6,877	706	8	87.1
Colorado	1,631	670	13	682	611	10	949	725	18	84.2
Connecticut	1,163	783	18	525	666	18	638	900	23	74.1
Delaware	309	646	12	144	583	16	165	713	20	81.8
District of Columbia	244	729	14	124	708	23	120	745	17	95.1
Florida	5,641	568	7	2,608	502	5	3,033	623	8	80.7
Georgia	3,222	598	7	1,453	561	14	1,769	639	15	87.7
Hawaii	422	610	9	191	544	24	231	683	23	79.6
Idaho	421	535	14	172	476	11	249	601	11	79.2
Illinois	4,466	645	8	1,951	571	10	2,516	725	12	78.7
Indiana	2,269	612	8	954	520	11	1,315	696	19	74.7
Iowa	1,060	604	8	468	520	11	593	668	17	77.9
Kansas	944	601	10	428	528	16	516	673	19	78.4
Kentucky	1,364	568	11	617	498	12	747	632	20	78.7
Louisiana	1,431	543	14	672	454	13	758	636	17	71.4
Maine	429	591	12	189	505	14	240	657	16	76.9
Maryland	2,089	738	11	971	666	16	1,118	791	26	84.3
Massachusetts	2,322	755	10	1,000	665	13	1,322	853	17	78.0
Michigan	3,329	674	10	1,445	579	10	1,883	778	13	74.3
Minnesota	1,875	730	12	818	615	12	1,057	834	20	73.8
Mississippi	958	517	8	444	454	17	515	580	17	78.3
Missouri	2,104	613	10	944	525	16	1,160	684	17	76.7
Montana	273	518	8	120	449	12	153	603	15	74.5
Nebraska	644	569	14	286	484	10	357	652	17	74.3
Nevada	823	561	14	351	505	8	472	606	10	83.3
New Hampshire	478	690	17	201	572	17	278	794	26	72.1
New Jersey	3,136	750	9	1,379	655	15	1,757	821	15	79.8
New Mexico	583	548	16	262	483	16	321	606	18	79.7
New York	6,456	650	7	2,921	590	6	3,535	723	9	81.7
North Carolina	2,958	579	6	1,318	509	7	1,640	634	13	80.3
North Dakota	218	520	9	97	451	11	121	607	14	74.2
Ohio	4,007	624	8	1,744	524	9	2,263	697	11	75.2
Oklahoma	1,167	550	15	526	485	9	641	620	12	78.2
Oregon	1,155	621	11	480	536	16	675	715	16	74.9
Pennsylvania	4,230	626	8	1,833	539	13	2,398	716	11	75.3
Rhode Island	378	642	15	171	579	14	207	723	22	80.0
South Carolina	1,398	579	11	656	503	12	743	649	19	77.5
South Dakota	278	518	6	127	468	10	150	582	13	80.3
Tennessee	2,024	561	13	927	497	8	1,097	640	18	77.7
Texas	7,715	550	8	3,356	501	6	4,358	600	7	83.5
Utah	748	606	9	297	507	12	451	672	15	75.4
Vermont	213	613	8	96	555	14	117	674	18	82.4
Virginia	2,738	667	15	1,264	581	13	1,474	761	15	76.4
Washington	1,998	691	15	837	579	17	1,161	797	24	72.6
West Virginia	558	552	14	236	457	14	323	621	15	73.6
Wisconsin	2,028	631	10	890	547	14	1,138	713	16	76.8
Wyoming	180	594	11	77	467	15	103	715	13	65.3

¹ These figures are computed using unrounded medians and may differ slightly from percents computed using the rounded medians displayed in this table.

NOTE: Data refer to persons 16 years and over.